

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABJNE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A LOURENCO MARQUES 0081

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, MZ

SUBJECT: 26TH MEETING OF AFRICAN LIBERATION COMMITTEE

REF: A) LOURENCO MARQUES 64; B) ALGIERS 168

SUMMARY: THE 26TH MEETING OF THE AFRICAN LIBERATION COMMITTEE
(ALC) ENDED IN THE EARLY HOURS OF 24 JAN, BRINGING TO A CLOSE

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FIVE DAYS OF DEBATE. RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED ON ZIMBABWE,

NAMIBIA, AND SOUTH AFRICAN, AND STATEMENTS OR ACTION TAKEN ON EX-SPANISH SAHARA, THE SEYCHELLES, MAYOTTE/COMOROS, AND DJIBOUTI. A PROLONGED CLASH BETWEEN RADICAL AND MODERATE STATES OPENED ON SPANISH SAHARA AND DJIBOUTI DEBATES, BUT WAS BY AND LARGE HEADED OFF BY A COALITION OF DELEGATIONS, THAT SUCCEEDED IN TABLING THE ISSUES RATHER THAN FURTHER SPLITTING THE OAU.

1. THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTIONS OF EVENTS WERE PROVIDED PRIMARILY BY HIGH COMMISSIONER (TO ZAMBIA) SAM KWKHOBWE, SENIOR MALAWI OBSERVER TO ALC, AND MOHAMED ABDEL SALAM, EGYPTIAN CHARGE AND DELEGATE TO THE ALC MEETING. PROTECT BOTH FULLY.

A. ON EX-SPANISH SAHARA: ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE ENSUED WHEN THIS ISSUE WAS BROUGHT TO THE HEAD OF THE AGENDA, AND A DOCUMENT DENOUNCING MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA WAS CIRCULATED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLISARIO FRONT. MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN DELEGATIONS WALKED OUT. MODERATES, LED BY EGYPT, Q SENEGAL, CAMEROON, AND ZAIRE HEADED OFF AN ALGERIAN MOVE TO IMMEDIATELY DECLARE SUPPORT FOR POLISARIO. THE FINAL DECISION WAS TO RECOMMEND TO THE NEXT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING THAT POLISARIO BE RECOGNIZED AS A LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SAHARAN PEOPLE-AN ADMITTED STALLING TACTIC BY THE MODERATES AND A MINOR VICTORY FOR SENIOR ALGERIAN DELEGATE MOHAMMED SAHNOU.

B. DJIBOUTI: ACRIMONY BROKE OUT ANEW AS THE SECOND ITEM OF BUSINESS WAS A DISCUSSION OF DJIBOUTI AND A SOMALI-MOZAMBIQUE MOVE WAS MADE TO RECOGNIZE ONLY THE PRO-SOMALI POLITICAL FACTION. A LENGTHY WRANGLE DEVELOPED WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE ALI AREF FACTION HAD NOT BEEN INVITED TO THE MEETING. MODERATES BECAME CONVINCED THIS WAS A GAMBIT BY MOZAMBIQUE AND SOMALIA. IF SO IT BACKFIRED: ETHIOPIA GATHERED SUFFICIENT SUPPORT TO REFER THE MATTER TO THE NEXT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING WITH THE NOTATION THAT BOTH FACTIONS BE INVITED TO SPEAK.

C. SEYCHELLES AND MAYOTTE: SEVERAL SPEAKERS REFERRED TO SEYCHELLES, WELCOMING ITS FORTHCOMING INDEPENDENCE, AND CONDEMNED FRANCE OVER MAYOTTE, BUT NO RESOLUTION WAS PASSED.

D. ZIMBABWE: BOTH THE ANCO-NKOMO AND ANC-MUZOREWA FACTIONS SPOKE, EDWARD NDHLOVU SPEAKING FOR NKOMO AND MUZOREWA SPEAKING
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FOR HIMSELF WITH NDABANINGI SITHOLE, JAMES CHIKEREMA, AND GEORGE NYANDORO BACKING HIM UP). THE FINAL RESOLUTION CALLS UPON ALL OAU COUNTIRES TO OFFER SUPPORT FOR THE ARMED STRUGGLE, AND CALLS UPON MOZAMBIQUE, TANZANIA, ZAMBIA, AND BOTSWANA TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO UNTIE THE ANC. THE TEXT OF THIS APPEARED TO BE A COMPROMISE WORKED OUT BY THE ZAMBIAN AND TANZANIAN DELEGATIONS.

E. SOUTH AFRICA: A ROUTINE RESOLUTION WAS PASSED SUPPORTING

THE LIBERATIONS MOVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA. BOTH PAC AND ANC WERE PRESENT, AND THE RESOLUTION APPARENTLY SPECIFICALLY NOTES THAT SUPPORT SHOULD BE LIMITED TO THE TWO EXTANT ORGANIZATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA, PAC AND ANC.

F. ANGOLA: ON THE OPENING DAY, THE GUINEA-BISSAU DELEGATE ATTEMPTED TO INTRODUCE ANGOLA ONTO THE AGENDA, SUPPORTED BY MOZAMBIQUE. THE CHAIRMAN (EGYPTIAN) SQUELCHED THIS BY RULING THAT ANGOLA HAD BEEN LIBERATED AND THUS WAS OUTSIDE THE PURVIEW OF THE ALC.

G. NAMIBIA: A ROUTINE RESOLUTION WAS PASSED SUPPORTING SWAPO. HOWEVER, SWAPO REPRESENTATIVES, IN AN EFFORT TO COVER ALL BETS ON THE OUTCOME OF CURRENT STRUGGLE IN ANGOLA, LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THEY WERE NEITHER PRO-MPLA OR ANTI-FNLA/UNITA. AS ONE SWAPO REP PUT IT, SWAPO IS FOR THE JUST STRUGGLE OF ALL THE ANGOLAN PEOPLES. AND HE INFERRED THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO PRE-JUDGE THE OUTCOME OF THE CURRENT STRUGGLE MIGHT JEOPARDIZE FUTURE SWAPO ACTIVITIES IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF ANGOLA AT SOME FUTURE DATE.

2. NO MENTION WAS MADE OTHER THAN A FEW REMARKS IN OPENING ADDRESSES ABOUT DIEGO GARCIA. THERE APPARENTLY WERE NO ATTACKS SPECIFICALLY MADE ON USG.

3. THE QUESTION OF CHAIRMANSHIP CAUSED A FURTHER SPLIT. TANZANIA PROPOSED THAT MOZAMBIQUE CHAIR THE 26TH MEETING. THIS, POINTED OUT THE CAMEROON DELEGATE, WAS IMPOSSIBLE SINCE MOZAMBIQUE WAS NOT YET A MEMBER OF THE ALC. HE PROPOSED THAT EGYPT BE GIVEN THE CHAIR, MOZAMBIQUE BE ADMITTED AND GIVEN THE CHAIR OF THE NEXT MEETING (TO BE IN DAR ES SALAAM) THIS WAS APPROVED, ALTHOUGH THE TANZANIANS ARE NOW UNHAPPY SINCE THEY WILL HOST THE NEXT MEETING, BUT NOT CHAIR IT.

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4. COMMENT: CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE "PROGRESSIVE" BLOC, ESPECIALLY MOZAMBIQUE, GUINEA-BISSAU, SOMALIA, AND ALGERIA WERE PREPARED TO CONTINUE AND EXASPERATE THE SPLITS WITHIN THE OAU BY INTRODUCING EXTREMELY CONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTIONS. THEY WERE DEFEATED BY A COALITION OF DELEGATES FROM EGYPT, ZAMBIA, SENEGAL, AND OTHERS PLUS THE ONLY LUKEWARM ALLEGIANCE TO THE RADICALS OF TANZANIA AND, ONCE THEY HAD MADE THEIR POINT ON SAHARA, ALGERIA. MOST OF THE TIME WAS SPENT ON THE SAHARA AND DJIBOUTI ISSUES, BOTH OF WHICH WERE REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO AVOID A SCHISMATIC VOTE.

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